MFR04017536

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Interview of FBI Special Agent [redacted]

Type of event: Interview

Dates: November 17, 2003

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Raj De

Team Number: 1A

Location: FBI, San Diego Field Office

Participants – Non-Commission: FBI Supervisory Special Agent Rick Kelly

Participants – Commission: Dieter Snell, Raj De

[redacted] has been with the FBI since November 1996. Prior to joining the FBI, he was a detective in Mercer County, New Jersey where he worked narcotics cases. Upon joining the FBI, [redacted] worked gang cases. He was switched to terrorism cases immediately after 9/11, but on January 1, 2002 he returned to his regular squad (Squad 7 – violent crime).

For the first couple of weeks after September 11, [redacted] was not a part of the Penttbom investigation but he worked security detail. Starting in October 2001, he was assigned to one of the post-9/11 investigation teams run out of San Diego. The head of his team was [redacted]

The initial lead regarding Isamu Dyson came in early October 2001. [redacted] recalled that information arrived about a white male who used to hang out with Omar al-Bayoumi and had videotaped a party at the apartment of Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Midhar in San Diego. [redacted] recalled that an ATF agent in Portland, ME had done the interview with Dyson and then brought the information to the attention of [redacted] who contacted San Diego. San Diego then made the connection that this individual might be the same person who had accompanied Bayoumi to Los Angeles when he first met Hazmi and Midhar.

[redacted] went to Portland to interview Dyson. He remembered reading the initial Portland police interview report. Although [redacted] recalled that Dyson made extremist comments in his initial interview with the police, he did not recall any statement made by Dyson that the hijackers had visited the Brackett Street mosque in Portland. According to [redacted] however, Dyson knew that some of the hijackers had been to Portland and that somebody named "Omar" had been arrested in San Diego.

DECLASSIFIED BY UC 60322/60
ON 5-3-07
per

[redacted] believed that a lot of what Dyson said may have been influenced by the media. Dyson was a trust fund kid who had grown up wealthy. [redacted] 9/11 Personal Privacy Dyson did remember a lot of facts with specific detail, however. According to [redacted] Dyson was "in search of an identity" and he was very impressionable. [redacted] 9/11 Personal Privacy SA [redacted] 9/11 Personal Privacy from the Venture RA would know more about Dyson's background, since he interviewed Dyson's mother.

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy

[redacted] believed that Dyson may have made some extremist comments to bring attention to himself. There is a picture of Dyson, for instance, in the NY Post dressed in traditional Muslim garb but with a long sword at his side. Dyson made some comments to the effect that an attack overseas on the U.S. Navy would be justified as part of jihad, and he talked often about the failure of U.S. foreign policy. Yet, according to [redacted] Dyson did not get a charge out of talking to the FBI (though he did like to talk), nor was he trying to be anybody's star witness. When he was asked to do so, Dyson was willing to be polygraphed. But [redacted] supervisors, including [redacted] did not want Dyson to be polygraphed before he appeared before the grand jury.

Dyson used to live in San Diego in early 2000. He moved to Portland to be with a [redacted] 9/11 Personal Privacy Dyson recounted that his first meeting with Hazmi and Midhar occurred while he was accompanying Bayoumi on a trip from San Diego to Los Angeles. Dyson recalled that a couple of weeks before the trip, Bayoumi mentioned to him that he was going to go to the Saudi consulate in Tihajuana, Mexico to straighten out a visa problem. Dyson suggested that instead of going to the Saudi consulate in Mexico, Bayoumi should go to the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles. When Bayoumi asked him to come along a few weeks later, Dyson probably went along because he had nothing better to do and could not politely refuse Bayoumi's request.

When recounting the visit with Bayoumi to the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles, Dyson stated that one person came out to greet Bayoumi. It appeared that this individual had a prior personal relationship with Bayoumi, and the two of them went behind closed doors to meet in private. Dyson seemed fairly certain that on the same day he first met the hijackers at the Mediterranean Restaurant, he and Bayoumi later went to the King Fahad Mosque (KFM). This was his first visit to the KFM. He did not recount anything eventful about that visit to the KFM, nor did he mention anything about getting lost on the way to the KFM from the restaurant. Dyson has said that he has been to the KFM on more than one occasion.

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy

According to [redacted] Dyson explained that did not initially recount this meeting with the hijackers because he was not sure positive at first whether it had been Hazmi and Midhar whom he had met at the Mediterranean Restaurant. Because Dyson did not want to give the FBI wrong information, he initially stated that the party in San Diego was the first time he met the hijackers. Dyson stated that he was asked to videotape the party that Bayoumi held to welcome the hijackers soon after they arrived in San Diego. According

to [redacted] Dyson was fairly specific in recounting that Bayoumi held the party in order to welcome Hazmi and Midhar. Dyson did not mention anything about any other out of town visitor or guest. Dyson recalled that a lot of people did not want to be videotaped, which is not uncommon in that culture. Dyson said Bayoumi, Hazmi, and Midhar did a lot of the food preparation for the party.

[redacted] had never seen the videotape of the party. Rick Kelly stated that he would provide a copy of the video to Commission staff.

During his first interview, Dyson said that he had been to the hijackers' apartment between 20 and 30 times. He later stated that he had probably only been to the apartment between 10 and 20 times. Every time he was at the apartment, Dyson said he was either with Bayoumi, meeting Bayoumi there, or looking for Bayoumi (in other words, he never went alone on his own accord to spend time with Hazmi and Midhar alone). Dyson did not know much about the hijackers' activities or associates. He believed that Midhar and Hazmi were students who were in the U.S. to learn English, and that they had lived near the Mediterranean Restaurant while in Los Angeles. Dyson received no indication that the hijackers were extremist in any way. He said he did not speak with Hazmi or Midhar between meeting them in Los Angeles and seeing them at Bayoumi's party in San Diego. Bayoumi mentioned to him that he had spoken with them once or twice in the interim and that they may even had visited San Diego.

Dyson was close to Bayoumi. He thought highly of him. He met Bayoumi at the ICSD. Dyson has been to Bayoumi's mosque in El Cajon a couple of times. Dyson said he never lived with either Bayoumi or the hijackers. He lived with two individuals who he met at the ICSD and who lived nearby (Dyson crashed on the floor of their apartment). Dyson was only in San Diego for a few months from December 1999 to February 2000. He left within weeks of when Hazmi and Midhar arrived in San Diego. He was able to show [redacted] on a map where he lived relative to where Bayoumi and to where Hazmi and Midhar lived. Dyson did not know anything about the Texaco station in La Mesa. He was shown numerous photographs but did not recognize Modhar Abdullah, Anwar Aulaqi, or Omar Bakarbashat. [redacted] did not believe that Dyson was shown photos of Thumairy or Benomrane. Dyson did he recognize the name [redacted] 9/11 Personal Privacy

Rick Kelly agreed to provide Commission staff with the interview packets used to show photos to Dyson. According to [redacted] these packets were updated on October 1, 2001.

[redacted] did not believe that Dyson was holding anything back. He stated that the only times that Dyson was less than truthful was when he failed to mention that he had a [redacted] 9/11 Personal Privacy and when he omitted some information from his Maine drivers' license application.

[redacted] stated that he first interviewed Dyson with [redacted] he interviewed him a second time with _____ (?); his third interview was with [redacted] an FBI agent from Portland; and he later interviewed Dyson with [redacted] from LA, the agent

who had been present when Scotland Yard interviewed Bayoumi. [redacted] noted that SA [redacted] had helped him navigate Dyson around Los Angeles when they took him there to walk the FBI through his movements the day of the meeting at the Mediterranean Restaurant.

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy

[redacted] has now lost track of Dyson. He believed that Dyson changed his mind sometime in early 2002 and no longer wanted to cooperate. [redacted] thought that [redacted] and [redacted] were trying to show Dyson some photos relating to individuals at the Saudi consulate. [redacted] was aware that the FBI searched Dyson's computer and found nothing.

[redacted] agreed to locate some recent e-mails with [redacted] regarding Dyson. Rick Kelly agreed to provide copies of these e-mails to the Commission.